



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
	:	
	:	
COLLEEN HAMILTON, R.N.	:	
License # 26NR 07452000	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Colleen Hamilton ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse (RN) in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about January 30, 2015, a letter of inquiry issued on behalf of the Board, asking Respondent, among other

things, for documentation, in the form of certificates of completion, of required nursing continuing education completed during the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 licensing cycle.

3. Respondent indicated that she completed continuing education but was unable to provide documentation of successful completion of continuing education.

4. Respondent indicated on her 2014 renewal application that she would complete all required nursing continuing education for the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 licensing cycle by May 31, 2014.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to document timely completion of required continuing education for the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 licensing cycle constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's indication on her 2014 renewal application that she would complete all required nursing continuing education for the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 licensing cycle by May 31, 2014 is deemed to constitute misrepresentation in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline seeking a suspension, reprimand,

and a two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty was entered on July 16, 2015. Copies were served upon Respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline by providing proof of completion of 33.25 hours of continuing education in July 2015, including the required course on Organ and Tissue Donation. Respondent may apply 30 of those hours to cure the deficiency of the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 biennial period and avoid suspension of her license. The remaining 3.25 hours may be applied to the June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2016 biennial period.

The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. Inasmuch as Respondent cured the deficiency in her continuing education, the Board determined that suspension was no longer warranted. However, the Board

determined that Respondent's failure to timely complete the required continuing education within the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 biennial period warrants imposition of a two hundred dollar and fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty. Also, a reprimand is warranted for Respondent's corresponding answer on her renewal application whereby she misrepresented that she had completed the required continuing education when she was unable to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that she had done so.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 10th day of December, 2015,
ORDERED that:

1. A reprimand is hereby imposed upon respondent for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

2. A civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) is hereby imposed for respondent's failure to timely complete required nursing continuing education.

Respondent has submitted a money order for two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) which will be processed as payment of the within civil penalty.

3. Continuing education completed after May 31, 2014 and applied to cure the deficiency of a previous biennial period shall not also be applied towards the current biennial period. Respondent shall complete another 26.75 hours of continuing

education prior to May 31, 2016 to satisfy the requirements of
the June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2016 biennial period.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: 

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President